The Battle of Badr:

Lessons and Morals

by

Ahmad Abubakar Mustafa

Praise and Invocation

Praise be to Allah, the Lord alone, and peace and blessings be upon the one after whom there is no prophet, our Master and Prophet Muhammad, the Messenger of ALLAH, and upon his pure family and noble companions, and those who follow them in righteousness until the Day of Resurrection.

After that: This is the story of the Great Battle of Badr and an explanation of the benefits, admonitions, and lessons it contains. We ask ALLAH Almighty to benefit us from these benefits.

*****

Table of Contents

1. The Great Battle of Badr
2. The Muslim Army Prepares

3. The Battle
4. Prisoners of Badr
5. Benefits and Lessons

*****

1. The Great Battle of Badr

Its cause was that the Quraysh, who had unjustly expelled the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and his Companions (may Allah be pleased with them) from their land, set out on a large camel bound for Syria for trade, gathering all their wealth. Abu Sufyan led the camel.

When the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) heard of it, he set out to intercept it. However, it escaped him, so he returned to Medina to await its return. When he heard of its return, he urged his Companions to go out, saying, "This is

the caravan of the Quraysh, containing their wealth. Go out to it, perhaps Allah will grant you some of it as spoils."

This battle took place in the second year of the Hijra.

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) did not urge any of them to go out, so some of them hastened to respond, while others were reluctant, as they could not imagine fighting in such a situation.

The Messenger, may ALLAH bless him and grant him peace, set out three nights before the end of the blessed month of Ramadan, accompanied by three hundred and some men, most of whom were from the Ansar. They also had seventy camels and horsemen following them. The Prophet, may ALLAH bless him and grant him peace, appointed Abdullah ibn Umm Maktum as his

successor in Medina, and gave Mus`ab ibn `Umair al-`Abdari the banner of general command. Abu Sufyan was vigilant of all the Muslims' movements and was extremely espionage-oriented, knowing their plans.

When he heard that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and his companions were planning to attack them with the caravan, he quickly changed the course and took the caravan along the coast to Mecca in order to save his caravan. He hired Damdam ibn Amr al-Ghifari to go to Mecca to inform the Quraysh of the news and to mobilize them to go out to protect him and their money. When the news reached them, they hastily prepared and all their leaders went out under the leadership of Abu Jahl ibn Hisham. They numbered about a thousand men, with one hundred horses,

seven hundred camels, and six hundred shields. They slaughtered nine or ten camels every day.

When Abu Sufyan saw that he had freed his caravan from the grip of the Muslims, having diverted it from the main road to the seashore, he sent word to the Quraysh asking them to return to Mecca. However, Abu Jahl, the commander of the army, insisted on continuing and said: “By ALLAH, we will not return until we return to Badr. We will stay there for three days, slaughter camels, feed the poor, drink wine, and have the female singers play for us. The Arabs will hear about us and our march and our gathering, and they will continue to fear us forever.”

The Quraysh army continued its march until it reached the furthest point of Badr

Valley. As for the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, nothing of the polytheists' actions reached him until he reached Ar-Rawha', whereupon he received the news that a bloody encounter was inevitable.

He held a consultative council in which he gathered the leaders of the army and consulted them about it. Some of them were inclined to be uncomfortable with the matter of fighting, as they had not prepared for it and had not expected it. Rather, they had only gone out to attack the caravan of polytheists. Concerning this,

ALLAH Almighty says:

“Just as your Lord brought you forth from your home in truth, while indeed, a party of the believers are averse.

They dispute with you about the truth after it has become clear as if they were being driven to death.” And they are watching.

۞ **And when Allah promised you that one of the two parties would be yours, and you wished that the one without power would be yours. But Allah intended to establish the truth with His words and to eliminate the disbelievers.**

۞ **That He might establish the truth and abolish falsehood, even though the criminals might hate it.** (Al-Anfal: 5-8)

Most of those who wanted to convince the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, to abandon confrontation with the enemy were from the Ansar, who made up two-thirds of the army. This does not indicate that they were contradicting the pledge they had pledged to him, peace and blessings be upon him, to prevent and support him at al-Aqabah, since their pledge to him at the previous al-Aqabah did not indicate that they were obligated to fight outside their country. As for the army leaders, they encouraged the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, to engage in bloody struggle, to the point that Miqdad ibn al-Aswad said:

O Messenger of ALLAH, go with what ALLAH has commanded you, and we are

with you. By ALLAH, we will not say to you as the Children of Israel said to Moses:

“**Then go, you and your Lord, and fight. Indeed, we are sitting right here**.” (24)

And in the Sahih, on the authority of Tariq ibn Shihab, he said: I heard Ibn Mas`ud say: “I witnessed a battle with Miqdad ibn al-Aswad, because I would have been his companion.”

More beloved to me than what has been substituted for it, came to the Prophet ﷺ while he was supplicating against the polytheists and said: We will not say as the people of Moses said: “Go, you and your Lord, and fight.” Rather, we will fight

on your right and on your left, in front of you and behind you.

I saw the Prophet ﷺ's face and his happiness shining." He meant his words. Then the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, addressed the Ansar and said: "Advise me, O people." Sa`d ibn Mu`adh, the leader of the Aws, said: "We have believed in you and we have confirmed you. We testify that what you have brought is the truth. We have given you our pledges and covenants to hear and obey.

So go, O Messenger of Allah, as you wish. By the One Who sent you with the truth, if you were to parade us across this sea and cross it, we would cross it with you. Not one man of us would stay behind.

We would not mind if you were to meet our enemy tomorrow. We are patient in war and truthful in encounters. Perhaps Allah will show you from us something that will please you. So go with us with Allah’s blessing.”

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was pleased with Sa'd's words and encouraged him. He then said, "Go on and be glad, for Allah has promised me one of the two parties. By Allah, it is as if I am now looking at the place of death of the people."

*****

2. The Muslim Army Prepares

Then the Muslim army continued on its journey under the leadership of the

Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) until it encamped near Badr. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and his friend Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (may Allah be pleased with him) began to explore. While they were wandering around the camp of the army of Mecca, they encountered an old Arab man.

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) asked him about the Quraysh and Muhammad and his companions. The old man said to them, "I will not tell you anything until you tell me who you are." The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "If you tell us, we will tell you." The man said, "Is that the same as that?"

He said: "Yes." The Sheikh said: "It has reached me that Muhammad and his

companions set out on such and such a day. If what he told me is true, then today they are in such and such a place - the place where the army of Medina is located. And it has reached me that the Quraysh set out on such and such a day. If what he told me is true, then today they are in such and such a place - the place where the army of Mecca is located."

Then he said to them, "Who are you from?" The Messenger of ALLAH, may ALLAH bless him and grant him peace, said, "We are from water." Then he turned away from them, and the old man continued to talk to himself, "What water? From the water of Iraq?"

Then the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) sent Ali ibn Abi Talib, Az-Zubayr ibn Al-Awwam, and Sa`d ibn Abi

Waqqas with a group of companions to the water of Badr to find out for him news about the condition of the polytheist army. They found two young boys from Quraysh drawing water for the army, so they took them and brought them to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) while he was praying. The people asked them about the condition of the polytheists, and they said, “We are water carriers for Quraysh. Send us to bring them water.”

They beat them, thinking they were Abu Sufyan’s two young boys. The beating compelled them to say, “We belong to Abu Sufyan.” So they left them. When the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) finished his prayer, he said to them, “If they tell you the truth, you beat them, and if they lie, you leave them alone. By

ALLAH, they have told the truth. They are indeed Quraysh." Then he addressed the two young boys.

He said: "Tell me about the Quraysh." They said: "They are behind this sand dune that you see on the far side." He said to them: "How many are they?" They said: "Many." He said: "What is their number?" They said: "We do not know." He said: "How many do they slaughter every day?" They said: "Nine one day and ten the next." The Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said: "The people are between nine hundred and a thousand."

Then he said to them: "Who are among them from the nobles of the Quraysh?" They said: "Utbah and Shaibah, sons of Rabi'ah, Abu al-Bakhtari ibn Hisham,

Hakim ibn Hizam, Nawfal ibn Khuwaylid, al-Harith ibn Amir, Tu’aymah ibn ‘Adi, al-Nadr ibn al-Harith, Zam’ah ibn al-Aswad, Abu Jahl ibn Hisham, and Umayyah ibn Khalaf, among the men he named.” Then the Messenger of ALLAH, may ALLAH bless him and grant him peace, turned to the people and said, "This is Mecca, which has thrown to you the most precious of its parts."

After the Prophet, may ALLAH bless him and grant him peace, had obtained a wealth of information about the forces of the polytheist army, he moved with his army to precede the polytheists to the water of Badr and prevent them from reaching it.

Ibn Hisham said: Ibn Ishaq said: The Quraysh proceeded until they camped on

the farthest side of the valley behind Al-Aqanqal and the valley floor, which is at night between Badr and Al-Aqanqal, the sand dune that the Quraysh had left behind, and the heart of Badr is on the lower side of the valley floor towards Madinah.

Allah sent down the sky and the valley was full, so the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and his companions were struck by it so much that it covered the ground for them but did not prevent them from moving on, and the Quraysh were struck by it so much that they were unable to travel with him. So the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) went out and raced them to the water until he came to the water closest to Badr and camped there.

Then Al-Hubab ibn Al-Mundhir ibn Al-Jamuh said: O Messenger of Allah, do you think this place is a place that Allah has placed you in and we are not to advance to it or delay from it, or is it opinion, war and deceit? He said: Rather, it is opinion, war and plot. He said: O Messenger of Allah, this is not a place to stay. So set out with the people until we reach the nearest water source to the people and camp there. Then we will cover the wells beyond it, then we will build a cistern by it and fill it with water. Then we will fight the people and drink, but they will not drink. The Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said: You have indicated the right opinion.

So the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, set out with the people who were with him and marched until he reached the nearest water source to the people. He camped there. Then he ordered the well to be covered and a cistern built over the well where he had camped. It was filled with water, and they threw the vessels into it. Then Sa`d ibn Mu`adh, the chief of the Aws (may Allah be pleased with him), asked the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to build him a shelter so that he would be safe in it.

Ibn Ishaq said: `Abdullah ibn Abi Bakr told me that Sa`d ibn Mu`adh said: O Prophet of Allah, shall we not build you a shelter where you can stay and prepare your mounts for you, then we will meet our enemy? If Allah gives us honor and

victory over our enemy, that will be what we like, but if it is not the case, then sit on your mounts and catch up with those behind us, for there are people who have stayed behind from you, O Prophet of Allah, and we love you no more than they do. If they thought that you would encounter war, they would not have stayed behind from you, so that Allah would protect you through them, advising you and fighting with you.

THIS IS ONLY A PREVIEW, GET THE FULL BOOK HERE:

https://selfany.com/TTJ6VCKAYU